\*\*\* PUBLIC VERSION \*\*\*

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA Alexandria Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 1:20-cr-00143

v.

Honorable T.S. Ellis, III

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS,

Defendant.

## **DEFENDANT'S RESPONSE TO COURT'S MARCH 31, 2022 ORDER**

Zackary Ellis Sanders, by and through undersigned counsel, files this Response to the Court's March 31, 2022 Order (ECF No. 616), which directed the parties to meet and confer regarding what reductions, if any at all, are necessary to the Sealed Memorandum Opinion so that a public version may be filed.

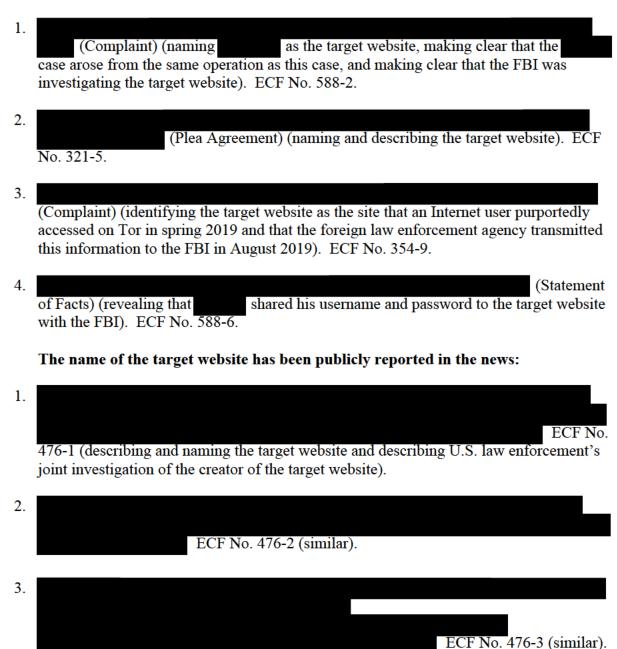
Mr. Sanders has reviewed the government's proposed redactions and believes none are necessary because none of the information the government proposes to redact should be considered sensitive or protected: all of the information is public knowledge. *See, e.g.*, Opp'n to Gov't Mot. for Order to Show Cause and to Seal (ECF No. 184).<sup>1</sup>

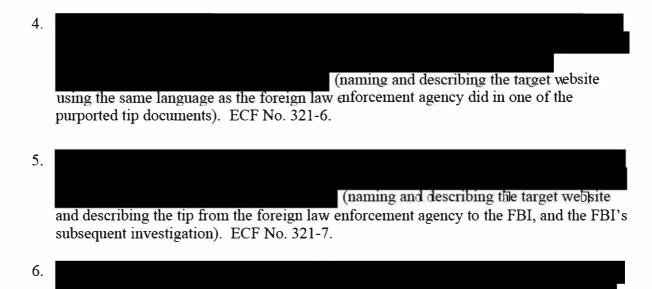
Mr. Sanders specifically objects to the name of the target website being redacted, because it has been publicly referred to by the government in other cases, including ones that clearly stem from the same operation, as well as in public news article. The fact that U.S. law enforcement, including the FBI, were investigating the target website, and that numerous cases arise from that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mr. Sanders does not believe that his Response should be filed under seal for the reasons discussed herein, but files this Response partially under seal in the event the Court disagrees.

investigation of the target website, are part of the public domain. Examples of public references to the target website, including by the government, have been accumulating throughout the litigation of this case. For ease of reference, some examples are provided below.

## The name of the target website appears on the public docket:





For the reasons set forth above, in his Opp'n to Gov't Mot. for Order to Show Cause and to Seal (ECF No. 184), and any other reason appearing to the Court, Mr. Sanders respectfully requests that the Court file its Memorandum Opinion publicly, without any redactions.

(same).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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/s/

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Counsel for Defendant Zackary Ellis Sanders

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022, the foregoing was served electronically on the counsel of record through the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Electronic Document Filing System (ECF) and the document is available on the ECF system.

/s/ Jonathan Jeffress
Jonathan Jeffress